

# **WAUKESHA COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION**

**AUGUST 10, 2005**

## **In Attendance:**

Paul Barthel; Vice-Chairman; Highway Commissioner Representative  
Medical Examiner Lynda Biedrzycki; Medical Representative  
Sergeant Jim Bramm; Menomonee Falls Police Department Representative  
Ms. Mitzi Dobersek; Wisconsin DOT Highway Engineering Representative  
Ms. Susie Just; PARC Task Force  
Specialist Steven Kraus; City of Waukesha Police Department Representative  
Lieutenant Larry LaFavor; Chairman, Traffic Safety Coordinator  
Sergeant Russel Paar; Town of Oconomowoc Police Department Representative  
Sergeant Kenneth Pileggi; Village of Mukwonago Police Department Representative  
Sergeant Brian Ripplinger; City of Pewaukee Police Department Representative  
Mr. Jerry Smith; Bureau of Transportation Safety  
Sergeant Mark Tushaus; City of Brookfield Police Department

## **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Traffic Safety Commission Chairman Lieutenant Larry LaFavor at 2:00 p.m.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Vice-Chairman Paul Barthel, from the Department Of Public Works, made a motion to approve the minutes, and Lieutenant Larry LaFavor, from the Waukesha County Sheriff's Department, seconded the motion. The minutes were then approved.

## **MOVE OVER LAW**

Sergeant Russel Paar, from the Town of Oconomowoc Police Department, requested the Move Over Law to be put on the agenda for this meeting. The Move Over Law requires motorists to move over or slow down when approaching emergency vehicles with their lights activated. He stated he would like to see signage placed on each end of the Interstate, as well as on state and county highways. Lieutenant LaFavor stated perhaps signage should also be placed on city streets. He stated that Highway 16 is an area of concern.



Sergeant Jim Bramm, from the Menomonee Falls Police Department, stated that Ohio has many informative public announcements which remind motorists to move over or slow down when approaching an emergency vehicle. A video on the Move Over Law can be found on [www.calibrepress.com](http://www.calibrepress.com).

### OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Susie Just, from PARC, asked when I-94 was closed at Highway 83, if the Emergency Alternate Route Operations were put into effect. Lieutenant LaFavor stated between Highway E and Highway C there have been many accidents occurring, perhaps because there are no concrete barriers. Mitzi Dobersek agreed that a barrier would help. Keeping cars on the roadway is a safety concern, and median cross-over crashes are being looked into. Lieutenant LaFavor then mentioned that hedges would possibly help. Ms. Susie Just stated perhaps the area is dangerous because west of I-94 and Highway 83 it is basically a rural area, then suddenly the highway has numerous on and off ramps and more signage, which may distract the motorists.

### TRAFFIC SAFETY LEGISLATION REPORT

Mr. Jerry Smith stated the legislature is now adjourned. He also stated two new bills have been signed into law. The first allows alcohol concentrations over the legal limit to be admitted as evidence that the person was under the influence of an intoxicant, regardless of the number of prior OWI-related convictions. (Previously the alcohol concentration test result could only be used as evidence for persons with two or fewer OWI convictions.) The second partially repeals the prohibition of double-deck buses by limiting to those with an open-roof design, and creates an exception to the general vehicle height limitation for double-deck buses if certain conditions are satisfied. He also stated there is a new bill just being introduced to raise the state speed limit to 75 miles per hour.

### COMMISSION MEMBER REPORTS

#### ■ Medical

Medical Examiner Lynda Biedrzycki handed out a list of the 2005 Traffic Fatalities. She stated there were three more that were not added to the list, which would then make a total of 22 fatalities.

#### ■ Menomonee Falls Police Department

Sergeant Jim Bramm stated there will be a Midwest Police and Security Conference Expo held at Rosemont, Illinois, on August 16 & 17, 2005. It will highlight training, equipment, uniforms, safety, signs, tactical, etc.

#### ■ PARC Task Force

Ms. Susie Just passed out a handout on DS2 Drive Safe Drive Sober, which will be held on October 15, 2005.

She stated last year's video is almost complete and it is being geared more towards the parents.

DS<sup>2</sup> (2005)  
DRIVE SAFE  
DRIVE SOBER  
(the decision is yours)

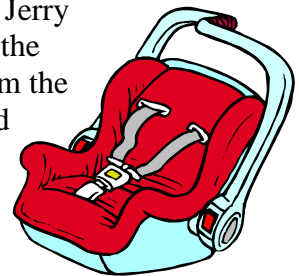
COMMISSION MEMBER REPORTS CONTINUED

■ Bureau Of Transportation Safety

Mr. Jerry Smith from the Bureau of Transportation Safety stated Dane County is in the upper five percent of state fatalities. Rock County (which includes Janesville) and also Walworth County are usually high in fatalities. A high number of fatalities are being reported state-wide at this time with the majority of them occurring on weekends.

Mr. Jerry Smith also stated the Governor's Conference will be held in Green Bay, on August 17 & 18, 2005.

Sergeant Jim Bamm, from the Menomonee Falls Police Department, asked how much compliance there has been for child's car seats. Mr Jerry Smith stated the usage of seats is high, however, 85 percent of the seats are not installed correctly. Sergeant Kenneth Pileggi, from the Village of Mukwonago Police Department stated they have had a lot of recalled seats, and they also find that there are many errors in installing seats, along with improper usage of them. He gives lessons on how to install them properly in vehicles. He stated not only is it important for the driver to be seat-belted, but unbelted passengers and other equipment in vehicles are just as dangerous in an accident, due to the fact they could move around within the vehicle and cause injury.



Vice-Chairman Paul Barthel asked Mr. Jerry Smith if there are any bills in legislature reference cell phones. He stated there are currently four cell phone bills in legislature, including one which is a total ban for usage from all drivers, not only drivers with probationary licenses.

Sergeant Jim Bamm then asked if there is any legislation as far as criteria for private emergency vehicles running red lights and siren. Mr. Jerry Smith stated that he is not aware of any.

HIGH CRASH LOCATIONS / FATALS

➡ Sergeant Mark Tushaus reported there was one fatality for the City of Brookfield.

● Date of Accident: 06-26-05

Location: Calhoun and Riverbirch

This was a car vs. tree. An 82-year-old male passenger was the fatality.

➡ Sergeant Brian Ripplinger from the City of Pewaukee Police Department reported one fatality.

● Date of Accident: 06-12-05

Location: Duplainville Road, 666 feet south of Marjean

A passenger in a Jeep Wrangler pulled on the steering wheel and the vehicle left the roadway. After striking some trees, the passenger was ejected and died from head injuries. Speed was not a factor, however, alcohol was involved.

HIGH CRASH LOCATIONS / FATALS CONTINUED

- ➡ Specialist Steven Kraus reported that the Waukesha Police Department had one fatal accident:

● Date of Accident: 06-23-05

Location: 714 Bluemound Road

This accident was the result of a 15-year-old involved in a pursuit who failed to negotiate a curve while traveling at speeds of 104 miles per hour. The vehicle hit three trees and eventually a building, when the engine from the vehicle was ejected and went through the window of the building, which was a security company. Specialist Steven Kraus showed a video of the accident that was obtained from a camera mounted on the outside of the building. The 13-year-old passenger died from multiple traumatic injuries.

- ➡ Lieutenant Larry LaFavor reported that the Waukesha County Sheriff's Department had seven fatalities, as follows:

● Date of Accident: 05-16-05

Location: I-94 eastbound, 8/10 mile east of Highway 83

Two brothers, ages 20 and 23, lost their lives due to smoke and soot inhalation in a single motor vehicle accident. The vehicle was a pick-up truck, which had a trailer with a play set on it, and was traveling in the left lane of eastbound I-94. Upon switching to the right lane, the trailer apparently swayed back and forth, at which point the truck went into the emergency lane and partially in the ditch. The passenger side of the vehicle struck the guardrail end, and the trailer detached. The truck then rode up the guardrail and flipped over. It immediately exploded and became engulfed in flames. The two occupants remained trapped within.

● Date of Accident: 06-01-05

Location: CTH XX/Oakdale, north of Glendale

This accident involved a 18-year-old female who was the driver of a Toyota that drifted off the road to the east onto the grassy area for no apparent reason. It should be noted that witnesses claimed it appeared the driver was reaching for something on the passenger's side of the vehicle. The driver of the Toyota car overcorrected and crossed over the center lane into the southbound lane. The Toyota car then struck the Ford truck which was traveling southbound on CTH X / Oakdale Drive. The deceased's vehicle flipped over and went into a ditch, at which point she had to be extricated from the vehicle. It did appear that there was a cast on the right foot of the driver, which would have hindered the deceased's ability to operate the pedals appropriately. She was a student at Waukesha West High School and in the graduating class this year.

HIGH CRASH LOCATIONS / FATALS CONTINUED

● Date of Accident: 06-07-05

Location: Westbound I-94, .3 miles east of CTH C

This was a three vehicle accident in which a blue Buick Regal had been operating eastbound, had lost control due to mechanical problems, crossed the median, and struck a westbound car. The occupant in the westbound car was a 62-year-old female who sustained fatal injuries. He then stated that the westbound car was then struck by a third vehicle (a black pick-up), and both westbound vehicles came to rest side by side on the south side of the westbound lane slightly in the median.

● Date of Accident: 06-10-05

Location: Intersection of STH 83 and STH 59

This accident involved two vehicles in which a fatal accident occurred at the intersection of STH 59 at STH 83. The vehicles involved included a green Ford Escort northbound on Highway 83 approaching Highway 59, and a red Ford Taurus westbound on Highway 59. It is undetermined at this point which vehicle entered the intersection with the green or red light, however, all signal lights were working properly during and after the investigation. The 19-year-old female operator of the green Ford Escort became the fatality of this accident twelve hours after the accident occurred. The operator of the red Ford Taurus was flighted by helicopter with serious injuries.

● Date of Accident: 06-27-05

Location: CTH ES / National Avenue, 300 feet east of Evergreen Drive

A 62-year-old male driver in this one-vehicle accident had an apparent medical problem, possibly a heart attack, when his Ford pick-up was heading westbound on CTH ES. It then veered to the left, crossing the eastbound lane approximately 300 feet east of Evergreen Drive. It then went approximately 200 feet through a yard and struck two large boulders. It continued in a southerly direction, striking two trees, both on the driver and passenger side, crossing a driveway, and striking two more trees, again on the driver and passenger side. The vehicle was then airborne and struck another tree, rolled over into a ditch, struck a mailbox, and landed on its tires on Evergreen Drive. The male driver was pronounced deceased at Froedtert Hospital.

● Date of Accident: 08-06-05

Location: S99 W24190 Forest Home Avenue

This is a single-vehicle accident where a 29-year-old male driver of a motorcycle left the roadway and struck a utility pole. The driver had severe trauma to his head and was pronounced deceased on the scene. Alcohol was a factor in this accident.

NEXT QUARTERLY MEETING SCHEDULED

The next meeting of the Waukesha County Traffic Safety Commission is scheduled for Wednesday, November 9, 2005, at 2:00 p.m., at the City of Waukesha Police Department.

ADJOURNMENT

Specialist Steven Kraus, from the City of Waukesha Police Department, made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Lieutenant Larry LaFavor, from the Waukesha County Sheriff's Department. The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Gregesich  
Waukesha County Sheriff's Department